

## Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, September 9, 1842, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, September 9, 1842.

My dear sir, Your esteember [sic] letter of the 12th ultimo has been some time since, recd. I have been, from great debility, prevented from acknowledging it until now. As yet your dear children have not reached us, but we are enticipating soon to have the pleasure of giving them a hearty welcome to the Hermitage.

I have just received from Mr. Breedlove of Neworleans a letter and with it Martins History of Louisiana, 1 I am awaiting another communication from him, which when recd., I will forward you.

1 F. X. Martin, History of Louisiana (New Orleans, 1827). The page-references which follow are to the second volume.

Weak as I am, I have cast my eyes over that part of Martins history which relates to the invasion of Neworleans and of my defence of the City. A more wanton tissue of falshoods, and false colourings, I never before glanced my eyes over. Martin evades noticing the Judge's leaving the city, violating my confidence in him, when I gave him the order releasing him from the 9th detail in the order of Martial law, nor does he even hint at the judge's approval of the order declaring Martial law.

In page 356–7, he gives an account of the rumor spread during the night of the battle of the 23rd of the orders I had given to blow up the Magazine and burn the city. This is what I

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never heard of before I have now had it in Martins history. But if such was the case it must have emanated from the traitors managed by the Legislature to form a pretext for their treasonable project they had in view of making terms with the enemy—Such orders never was given to, or hinted to any one by me, and in this statement I see additional evidence of the corruption of the majority of the Legislature. It is worthy to remark the time this Book was written. The copyright is taken out in June 1827. The canvass 0190 166 for President was then going on. This old Federalist Martin was the supporter of Clay, and when I see in his Book a letter purporting to have been written by Fuller Skepwith 2 to me and said to be published in the Richmond Enquirer, such letter I never saw or heard of before, I begin to think that the tissues of falsehoods and false colorings, was coined for political effect to carry Louisi[a]na for Clay. The life of Jackson by Eaton was published in 1824. Why was it that Mr. Skepwith, and Genl. Thibedaux, withheld their's to 1827. I do not know the period of their death, but doubts are in my mind if both these men were not dead before the 10th of September 1827. The certificate of Capt. Thos. L. Butler, my aid de camp, left in the command of the city of Orleans, if not mislaid will be found amongst the papers sent to Mr. Kendall, and as Martin has said in page 414 that Hall was taken from his bed by a detachment of about 100 men I inclose you Dr. W. E. Butlers letter who went with Capt. Butler of the 4th Regt. (a South Carolinian) and the file of men, to prove what a monster of a falsehood this is. Dr. W. E. Butler belonged to the Hospital staff of the Tennessee Militia, a man whose veracity will not be doubted by any one. In page 492, 3 Martin says orders were issued to arrest Judge Lewis and Dick—false. Judge Hall never introduced the prosecution against me until after peace and Martial law suspended. Both Lewis and Dick were enrolled soldiers. I can only note one other falsehood amongst the many—Martin says in page 417, that I had Judge Hall imprisoned until Louallers trial was over, this a base falsehood—in same page he says I appeared in court with Reid, with my sworn answer—the record shews this to be false. My answer was not sworn to—nor did the rule require it. “I was to appear and shew cause why an attachment should not issue against me”. But I must close, I never in all my life read such a tissue of falsehoods, and his attempt to combine Wilkenson's conduct with mine shews the intent of the wretch. But

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leave Martin and his Book to you and my friend Kendall to criticise. I will send you and him the Book by the first opportunity.

2 Fulwar Skipwith, a Virginian who had married Jefferson's wife's sister, was U. S. consul in Martinique 1790–1792, consul general in Paris 1795–1808, and “governor” of West Florida in 1810 during the time of that short-lived republic. In 1814–1815 he was president of the senate of Louisiana. See Jackson's letter of Mar. 22, 1824, to John McLean (vol. III., pp. 239–240), Skipwith's letter of May 13, 1827 (Martin, II. 368–370), and that of Henry S. Thibodaux, Sept. 10, 1827 ( *ibid.* , II. 370). Thibodaux (d. Oct. 24, 1827) had been a member of the Louisiana senate in 1814–1815.

3 More correctly, II. 403.

Congress having now rose I hope you will find some Leisure, and when so, it will gratify me to hear from you. I am very feeble and great shortness of breath.

We all kindly salute you and your amiable lady and remain yr. friend

[P.S.] I have heard Mr. Tylers protest and your remarks upon it. Webster and him must deeply feel the impropriety of their course against me. Justice will overtake men.